

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 2-8, 14-15 and 19-39. Claims 1, 12 and 13, which the Examiner either allowed or indicated contain allowable subject matter, have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 19-21, respectively. Accordingly, claims 1, 12 and 13 have been canceled, and claims 2-8, which previously depended on claim 1, have been amended to depend on new claim 19. Claims 14 and 15, which the Examiner also indicated contained allowable subject matter, have been amended to depend on new claim 21 and on claim 14, respectively. These claims have also been amended to improve their form, and claims 9-11 and 16-18, which the Examiner rejected on the basis of the prior art, have been canceled. In addition, new claims 22-39 have been added. In amended FIG. 9, the reference numeral "154" has been changed to --156--. In amended FIG. 15, the line for the bearing 166 has been changed to more clearly indicate the bearing. In amended FIG. 16a, the reference numeral "167" has been changed to --170--. Support for the amendments may be found, *inter alia*, in the disclosure at pages 10-19, the drawings, and the original claims. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 6-7 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. In response, Applicant has amended claims 6, 7, 14 and 15 to improve their form and have canceled claims 16 and 17. It is respectfully submitted that all currently pending claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-5 and 8 are allowed, and that claims 6-7 and 12-15 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims; however, the Examiner rejected the remaining claims 9-11 and 16-18 on the basis of the prior art. Specifically, claims 9-11 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Lee U.S. Patent No. 6,540,241*, and claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lee*. Essentially the Examiner's position was that *Lee* discloses the pallet truck recited in the rejected claims except for features which were considered within the skill of the art.

In response, Applicant has rewritten claims 1, 12 and 13 in independent form as new claims 19-21, has amended claims 2-8 to depend on new claim 19, has amended claim 14 to depend on new claim 21, and has amended claim 15 to depend on claim 14. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 19-21 and claims 2-8 and 14-15 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicant has also canceled claims 9-11 and 16-18 which the Examiner rejected on the basis of the prior art, has added new claims 22-39, and respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection for the following reasons.

As set forth in new claims 22 and 30, Applicant's invention provides a pallet truck that is structured so as to be detachable into two pieces. The pallet truck includes a supporting frame, a lifting device, and a traverse. The supporting frame has a holder frame with guide rollers, a bearing bar, and first and second toggle levers. The lifting device has wheels, a piston rod head, and a console. The traverse bears the piston rod head. The lifting device is detachably and rotatably connected with the

supporting frame, and the bearing bar is detachably mounted by a socket on the piston rod head. The toggle levers are detachably and rotatably mounted on opposite sides of the traverse or of the console.

As more specifically recited in new claim 22, the pallet truck also includes first and second accommodation journals or bolts arranged at the console or the traverse, first and second bearing accommodations mounting respectively the first and second toggle levers on the lifting device, and first and second brackets arranged respectively at the first and second toggle levers so as to pivot and to respectively surround in a closed position the first and second accommodation journals or bolts so that each accommodation journal or bolt is openable and lockable. Each bearing accommodation has a respective front end for accomodating a respective one of the first and second accommodation journals or bolts arranged at the console or traverse, and each accommodation journal or bolt is rigidly arranged between the respective bearing accommodation and the respective bracket in the closed position.

As more specifically cited in new claim 30, the pallet truck includes first and second front bearing openings and first and second socket pins penetrating the first and second front bearing openings respectively and respectively received in bores of the traverse or the console.

With Applicant's pallet truck as recited in new claims 22 and 30, the pallet truck may be assembled and disassembled into two peices of approximately the same weight without using tools, with the detachable or releaseable connecting elements secured against falling out.

None of the cited references discloses or suggests a pallet truck having the structure recited in new claims 22 and 30 or achieves the benefits resulting from that structure. The primary reference to *Lee* discloses a pallet truck which is connected by means of screws 115 engaged in a third hole 133. This connection is not detachable without using tools. Although *WO 00/68059* cited in the International Search Report and in Applicant's August 20, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement shows a pallet

truck which is detachable into two pieces, this device has the disadvantage that the lever bolts 16 used to connect the two pieces of the pallet truck are not secured and that especially on a long term use of the pallet truck, it might be possible that due to the unsecured lever bolts, these elements might become disengaged from the pallet truck. If such disengagement occurs, the pallet truck would unintentionally break into its two component parts: the supporting frame and the lifting device.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 22 and 30 and dependent claims 23-29 and 31-38, which depend directly or indirectly on new claims 22 and 30, respectively, are patentable over the prior art, together with claims 2-8, 14-15 and 19-21, which are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant also notes that the Examiner has attached Applicant's Form 1449 submitted with the August 20, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement to the Office Action, but has not expressly checked the box indicating that the references cited on that form have been considered. Accordingly, Applicant

respectfully requests that the Examiner so indicate that he has considered these citations as is believed to be the case.

In summary, claims 2-8, and 14-15 have been amended, claims 1, 9-13 and 16-18 have been canceled, and new claims 19-39 have been added. FIGS. 9, 15 and 16a have also been amended. A check in the amount of \$900.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee for ten additional claims and two extra independent claims for a Large entity. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

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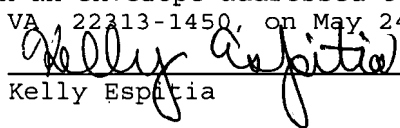
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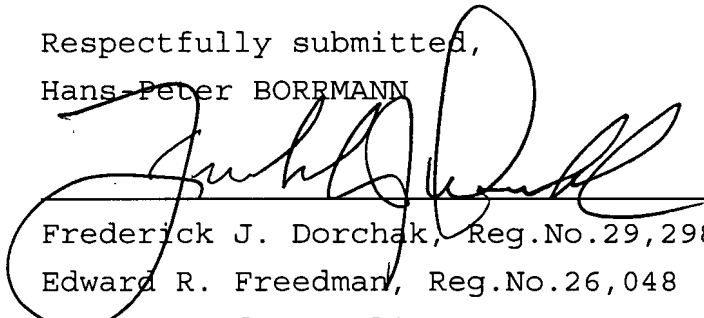
Enclosures: Copy of Petition for one-month Extension of Time, with Check in the amount of \$120.00, Three (3) sheets of replacement drawings, and Check in the amount of \$900.00

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450, on May 24, 2007.


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Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached three (3) sheets of drawing include changes to FIGS. 9, 15 and 16a. In amended FIG 9, the reference numeral "154" has been changed to --156-- for the openings. In amended FIG. 15, the line pointing out the bearing 166 has been changed to more clearly indicate the bearing. In amended FIG. 16a, the reference numeral "167" has been changed to --170-- to designate the pivot axis. These sheets depicting FIGS. 9, 15, and 16a and 16b replace the original sheets depicting FIGS. 9, 15, and 16a and 16b.

Attachment:

Three (3) replacement sheets